

# Friars Primary School & Nursery

Part of the Portico Academy Trust

Principal - Mr C. McClay

Vice Principal – Mr S. Roche

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PORTICO  
ACADEMY TRUST

opening doors, unlocking potential

CEO – Mrs C. Woolf

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Government has given new guidance around children of critical workers being in school. Schools are now being asked to accept children where only one parent or carer is a critical worker. If you are now eligible and must make use of school provision, please complete the survey by following the links below. The link to the Government’s definitions of critical workers is also below.

### Survey:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=itiMSBXflk2j9Bz-n-ErI0bCB-ga8xLLqdx3lRe4LsBURTdENZgwQjZCME5RU1U1SUFSSMwTjFMRC4u>



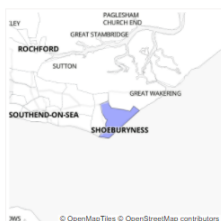
### Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>

With the lockdown message of ‘Stay at Home’ and schools being closed across the half term, it is vitally important that children are only in school if they absolutely have to be so that we can help keep our community safe and drive down the infection rates in Shoebury, and Southend as a whole. As illustrated by the picture below, infection levels in our area are worryingly high. 1242 cases per 100,000 represents the highest rate to date. Yesterday’s national figure of 60,916 was also the largest we have seen.

With more children in school it makes keeping everyone safe that much harder.

## SS3 9XX – Shoeburyness



### People tested positive by specimen date

Seven days to 31 December 2020

**149**

Rate per 100k resident population: **1242.3**

How does this compare to England average?



Unfortunately we are now here.

**Please can we ask that all surveys are completed by 4pm tomorrow, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January.** We will need Friday to plan for the increase in numbers and therefore new children to provision will be able to attend from Monday. As I am sure you will understand, it is not as simple as welcoming children through the door. Taking in more children could mean the bubbles we have already set up will need to completely change and we might need to consider alterations to other arrangements such as drop-off and collection times and systems. We will need to reflect all of this in our risk assessments before Friday. Thank you for your understanding with this.

If you have any questions regarding critical worker provision, please contact the school either by email or by telephone. Parents and carers who complete the survey will be contacted on Friday. Of course, if there are any changes that affect the children already attending this week, we will notify parents and carers.

We were very much hoping that there would be no school closure this year and we feel truly sorry for all our children and families but we understand how necessary it is. Let us do our bit to suppress the virus and return to a more normal life soon. Keep safe.

Yours sincerely,

*C. McClay*

Mr. C. McClay  
Principal

*S. Roche*

Mr. S. Roche  
Vice-Principal